

CHAPTER TWO 1863-1888

Louisville Bound Up War Wounds And Began To Become A City



LOUISVILLE BECAME the world's No. 1 tobacco center after the Civil War as this 1872 drawing of a Main Street scene indicates.

Inflation, damage to buildings and streets, outmoded railroad service and competition for Dixie trade were problems of the post-war years

AS FAR as threatening the security of the city was concerned, the Civil War for Louisville ended when the Confederate invasion of Kentucky was repulsed at Perryville on October 8, 1862.

Other anxious moments would come, and the city would remain a Union military headquarters and supply center to the end of the war, but Louisville would not again have to face the grim possibility of military siege or capture.

In later days, U. S. Grant would meet with his staff at the Galt House to plan the strategy that would cut the already divided Confederacy into three parts early in 1864; William Tecumseh Sherman would plan his Georgia campaign in the lush comfort of the same famed hotel.

Guerrilla activity would increase as the end of the war neared, but this would be more aggravating than telling. Louisville not only would come to know something of guerrilla tactics, it also would know something of the justice meted out to bushwhackers.

For it was to a military hospital in the city that William C. Quantrill, the most notorious of all guerrillas, was brought to die after being wounded near Bloomfield; it was here, on May 16, 1865, that Marcellus Jerome Clark, better known as "Sue Mundy," was hanged; it was here that "One-Arm" Berry was tried by a military court, convicted of 11 murders and was sentenced to hang, a sentence later commuted to 10 years in prison.

So, after 1862, despite periodic rumors of approaching Southern armies, Louisville was safe.

The second quarter-century of this story of Louisville—the 1863-1888 period—deals, then, largely with the aftermath of the war, and the eventful years that led up to the introduction of electricity as a practical, commercial commodity.

The war had left more than death and de-